

## New Online Store for Gently-Used Books!

Ventura Friends of the Library  
Reaches Out to the Community  
by Jill Forman

The Friends of the Library bookstore at Foster Library, and the sale shelves at Hill Road Library, have been closed down for months due to COVID. This has been a loss to the community in several ways. People loved coming in, browsing, and finding book bargains. The libraries benefited from all revenues, for programming, supplies, and book purchases. The bookstore volunteers, and the customers, enjoyed the social interaction and being able to chat about books with others who value them.



Now, thanks to innovative thinking and a lot of hard work, the Friends once again offers gently-used books at good prices. Board members Leslie Bellmore, Mary Olson, and Sandy Greenberg have set up an online store, easily accessible through the Friends website ([VenturaFriendsoftheLibrary.org](http://VenturaFriendsoftheLibrary.org)). Booklovers can browse by genre or choose bags of books, order and pay securely, and pick up their selections locally. No waiting for packages, no shipping fees! New selections are added weekly, so customers are encouraged to check back often. Nothing is over \$5; most children's and youth books are \$1. There are educational aids also. Holiday items will be added soon for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and so on. For now, pickups are Tuesday from 1-3 and Saturday 10-12 at the Hill Road Library, 1070 South Hill Road (near the government center.) Donations of books are also accepted at these times. All county COVID protocols are strictly followed.

## Report from the Treasurer – Kathy Thomson

This year has been challenging as we respond to the closures of our two main income producing outlets: our bookstores at Foster and Hill Road libraries and our periodic book sales. Our book sale committee volunteers have rallied to explore and create ways to sell books while following COVID guidelines. We are still accepting donations to help fuel these endeavors.

A synopsis of the year's income and expenses so far include:

### Income from Book Sales

Bookstore \$5,400.99      Income earned through March 15 when all libraries closed.  
Bulk Sales \$411.84      Income earned from bulk pickup of unsaleable books  
Hill Road Library Sales \$645.71 - Income earned through March 15  
Online Book Sales \$4,826.79 –      Income earned through Amazon. (Other online storefronts just came online in August)  
Other Book Sales \$1,075.83 -- Sales to book dealers with whom we have had relationships pre-pandemic.  
Periodic Book Sales \$1,173.45 - our one sale in early February in the Topping Room  
Total Book Sales \$13,534.61  
Total memberships \$5,130  
Total donations and art sales \$4,403  
Total SBA grants \$1000; Federal grant received. Nonprofit COVID relief.

Since Summer Reading Program was done virtually through the county's website, the Friends did not fund the entertainment this year. We will be distributing a check in the near future for \$17,000 to the Ventura County Library System for purchase of materials.

**Other fundraising: Axxess Books** are available for digital purchase to support Ventura Friends of the Library. Merchants included now cover both Ventura and Santa Barbara county. You can receive discounts on dining out, services such as household, personal care, and automotive, golf, wine tasting, health and much more. Each membership is \$40 with the Friends receiving \$13. The book literally pays for itself after just a few uses. **Purchase at [axxesscard.com](http://axxesscard.com) and choose Ventura Friends of the Library at checkout.** If you prefer a hardcopy book those will be available in November.